

Remarks

This response is in reply to the Office communication mailed January 12, 2005. Page and paragraph numbers are to that communication unless otherwise indicated.

Claims 1-5, 12-13 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Weller 2002/0029272 (pages 2-4, ¶ 4), while claims 6-11, 14-19 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Weller in combination with other references (pages 4-6, ¶¶ 6-9). These rejections are respectfully traversed.¹

It will be sufficient for the purposes of this response to address the Examiner's base rejection of claims 1, 12 and 20 on Weller, since the Examiner's remaining rejections are predicated on this base rejection.

Applicant's invention as defined in claims 1, 12 and 20 is directed to apparatus, a method or a program storage device for retrieving data from a selected one of a plurality of databases in a system in which a hypertext requests are issued from a client side to a server side. In accordance with applicant's claimed invention, there are provided a plurality of browser components (212-216) on the server side, each of which is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding one of the databases. In response to receiving, at a location (208) on the server side that is common to the databases, a hypertext request from a requester on the client side specifying data contained in one of the databases, the request is directed from the common location to the browser component corresponding to that database to permit the browser component to retrieve the data specified in the request.

Weller describes a method and system for assigning and distributing work over a computer network in which customer terminals 30 in a customer pool (Fig. 2) and agent terminals 36 in a workforce pool 14 are coupled over network interconnections 32 to a web server 34 in an information center 16. Web server 34 provides access to a plurality of different databases 40-54

¹ The Examiner's action is also incomplete, since it does not address claims 28-30, added by the previous amendment.

via a customizable user interface 60 (Fig. 3), which is preferably "an encrypted and password protected web site requiring a user ID to logon" [0040].

In applicant's claimed invention, a client-side request is received at a common server-side location and from there directed to a corresponding browser component to permit it to retrieve the data specified in the request. In Weller, on the other hand, there is no such corresponding browser component to which client-side requests are directed after being received by the user interface 60. Rather, such requests are forwarded directly from the user interface 60 to a particular one of databases 40-54. Thus, Weller does not direct client requests from a common server-side location to a browser component corresponding to the database being accessed, as claimed by applicant.²

Accordingly, Weller does not anticipate the subject matter of claims 1-5, 12-13 and 20-22 as amended. Nor, given its failure as a primary reference, does it render obvious the subject matter of claims 6-11, 14-19 and 23-27 as amended or previously presented claims 28-30.

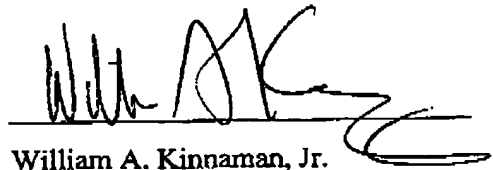
² Weller states that the user interface 60 includes "preferably web-based forms linked to the appropriate database so that the information supplied on the form when submitted is written to the appropriate database" [0043]. However, there is no suggestion that these forms constitute "browser components" or that they are separate from the interface 60.

Conclusion

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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